



# SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

## Media Release November 17, 2016 Scam Alert

**Kootenai County, Idaho:** Kootenai County Sheriff's Office would like the citizens of Kootenai County to be aware of the below types of phone scams currently being received in our area.

#1 Victim's receive a telephone call from a scammer claiming to be their grandson or granddaughter from the phone number (223)-921-3741. They claim that they are being held in court because of their involvement in an auto accident in or near Salt Lake City, UT. The scammer also provides the victim with a phony case number and states their lawyer will be calling you. Victims then receive a second call from a person claiming to be lawyer and using the name "Wayne Spencer" from Legal Aid Salt Lake City, normally using the phone number (920)-659-6219 out of Appleton, WI. The scam attorney next requests you send money for your grandson or granddaughter's release at 200 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Salt Lake City Court House. If the scammer is asked why he is calling from Wisconsin, instead of Utah, he states he's using his private phone.

To help you not become a victim of this, or any other scams, try to verify the caller's information by:

- Calling and talking with your grandson or granddaughter.
- If unable to talk with your grandchild, call other relatives to see if they know where your grandchild is, and if they could be in Salt Lake City.
- Conduct a computer check on the above telephone number(s) and the name of the individual(s) calling.
- Call the agency or jurisdiction where your grandchild states they are in custody to verify the above information.

#2 You may receive a phone call where the caller, or recording, states they are the IRS and that you should immediately call them regarding a lawsuit the IRS will be filing against you and or a possible arrest warrant being issued for you. The caller or recording will provided a telephone number for you to call. **Do not** call the number, this is a **scam**.

Victims have also received calls from people claiming they are employed by the IRS asking for personal information to include your name, address, and Social Security Number. This too is **another scam**.

First and foremost, the IRS will not initially call you. If there is an issue with your taxes, they will send you a letter first, **NOT CALL YOU ON THE TELEPHONE**.

For more information on telephone scams and identity theft, please go to the Federal Trade Commission web site (<https://www.ftc.gov>) for helpful tips in avoiding these and other types of scams.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff  
By: Gary Shults, Community Service Officer